

Mrs. Campbell is more than
Cornell notes!

CENTERSPREAD
March Madness comes to
Charlotte

Communism takes
centerstage
in the Student Forum

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THE SABRES' BLADE

South Mecklenburg High School

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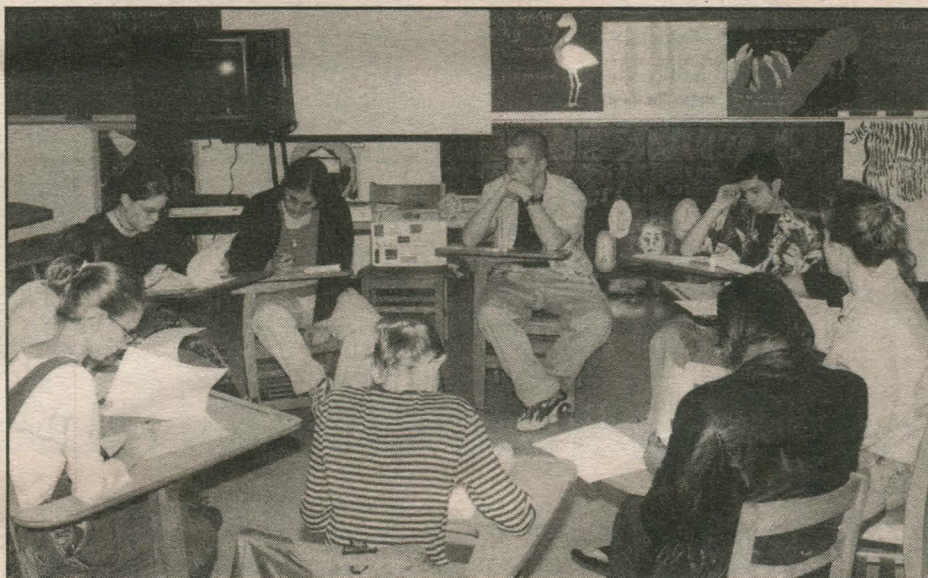
Sententia Wins "The Highest Award"

By Cat Traphagan
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Sententia, South's very own literary magazine, was recognized by the North Carolina Teachers Association in late February. It was last year's *Sententia* that won the superior rating and then the "Highest Award" for its creativity and overall excellence.

"The Highest Award" was a nationally recognized award that is given out to only one literary journal in each state. However, this year only 39 awards were given out. "The Highest Award" was selected from already superior ranked magazines. The judges looked for magazines in which all of the aspects were managed by the students. Other criteria included excellent writing, attractive graphics and fonts, creative layouts as well as the inclusion of extremely high-quality writing from a wide variety of genres.

"The entire South community should celebrate this award be-



Sententia staff members participate in a read around.

cause not only does it validate the hard work and talent of *Sententia* staff, but it celebrates the creativity of all of South's writers and artists," said the advisor, Mrs. Miklos. Last year's *Sententia* was edited by Amy Love with Caroline Mann as as-

sistant editor. The staff said the hardest part of putting *Sententia* together was the lack of entries they received. Mrs. Miklos, commented "When a student submits work to *Sententia* and the English fair and receives recognition it serves to define

himself as a writer." In other words, who wouldn't like to see his work in print?

"I think that this year's *Sententia* is going to be even better because the staff is more unified and more enthusiastic about what they are doing," said Caroline Mann, who is co-editor this year. Great things are expected of *Sententia* this year. It includes student written genres selected by the

Sententia staff, as well as artwork, photography and interviews. If you would like to be a part of the *Sententia* experience, submit your work before March 31, 2000. There are folders in all English teachers rooms. Congratulations, *Sententia*!

Staff Photographer/Julia Flumian

ASC Is Good for Me!

By Katy McClure
STAFF REPORTER

The 2000 Arts and Science Council Fundraising Drive took place during February. In past years, the drive has broken records across the country. Last year the fundraiser raised over \$8 million for Charlotte arts. The council hoped to at least match that amount this year, a feat few people thought possible. However, the ASC raised 12 percent more than last year with an amount of over \$9 million. This made Charlotte's art funding one of the highest in the country behind New York and Cleveland. Many teachers and students at South contributed to ASC this year and were no doubt a strong contributing factor in raising this amazing amount of money. "Arts programs are an integral part of education," said art student John Lakas. Obviously, many people agree.

Deca Goes to State Competition

By Julia Flumian
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Thousands of students dressed in business suits filled a grand ball room and then stood on chairs screaming at the top of their lungs. This was the North Carolina Career Development Conference, an annual competition for marketing students. During the weekend of March 3-5, participants took optional tests, attended workshops, and met other DECA students. This year South Mecklenburg continued its great tradition at this conference by winning the largest chapter award for the third year in a row. Mrs. Starns, Mr. Shultz, Ms. Hickie, and Ms. Wimberly accompanied the fifty nine students that competed this year. South Meck had many winners, including Amy Ross, who was a state finalist and Jennifer Incoe, who will be attending the National DECA Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Other winners included Tiffany Corbell, Julia Flumian, and Denise Huntly who were event finalists.

More than a competition, this was an opportunity to meet other students in North



Members of Deca stop to smile for the camera

Carolina. An estimated 2,000 students met at the Greensboro Four Season's Hotel and filled the elevators for three days. Students were challenged to display their understanding of marketing fundamentals and participate in role plays. With their free time students could be found going to the nearby mall or attending the dances. At this conference the new leaders

were elected by the various North Carolina districts. South Mecklenburg is in the largest district known as the Metrolina Region. Leaders of North Carolina DECA are chosen for their leadership skills and for their commitment. This conference as well as the club in general was an opportunity for high school students to participate in a nationwide club

that has many different activities. This conference was a memorable experience for everyone that attended. Friends were made and awards were won, but more than anything else, it was an opportunity to prove one's ability. The trip gave students a chance to meet many other DECA students and learn more about the professional business world.

Staff Photographer/Julia Flumian

This One's for Ben

By Jason Nark
STAFF REPORTER

On Saturday, March 4th over 1,100 race participants gathered at Park Crossing to raise money for the Ben Robbinette scholarship fund. Last year over \$44,000 was raised, but due to a smaller turnout and rainy conditions only \$34,000 was raised this year. The scholarship will be awarded to a student athlete who attends the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In the 15 to 17 age group, sophomore Adam Slawter took second place followed by sophomore Derek Smit. Senior Chris Gordon also took home a second place trophy in the 18 to 21 division.

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Security Alarms on More Than Cars and Houses

By Cat Traphagan
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Every Saturday night, at the YMCA, around 600 middle schoolers piled into basketball courts and onto a dance floor for Middle School Madness. I have worked the metal detectors, the concessions, the dance floor and I have patrolled the halls. I have seen the fights broken up and the cigarettes taken from kids shorter than me. Yet I know that every time their parents have dropped them off at 7:00 and have placed their children's lives in the hands of the Y-staff and the policeman, the middle schoolers never even thought twice, they felt safe and secure because they were. They trusted.

The same Saturday night that I was trusted by many parents

and countless pre-teens, I walked to my car with my keys clutched in a white knuckled fist. I cautiously watched for a man who would jump out to rape me.

We live in a world with movies about the

murder of loved ones and random acts of violence. Sitcoms poke fun at severed trust: relationships gone bad through cheating, lies and deceit. The newspapers prey on abandoned trust: gory deaths, dirt on politicians and the harsh reality of separated families. Is it any wonder that our generation can-

not imagine a world where the only crime is a locked door?

At one of the Middle School Madness programs I happened to be working the bag check-in. You see, the middle school stu-

dents aren't allowed to carry bags or jackets: too many secret pockets.

"The only crime was a locked door."

A boy, probably a sixth grader, walked past me with a huge coat on. I caught his attention and told him that he needed to leave it with me, besides he wouldn't want to carry it. The boy suspiciously clutched his oversized jacket and responded, "No I don't want anybody to steal it." I had to explain that he could

trust me, I would make sure it was safe. Finally, he carefully handed me his precious jacket. "Thank you," I said. "Thank you for trusting me."

We lock our car doors, set our security alarms, and guard our possessions with more than protective glares. But this behavior carries into other parts of our lives. We walk through every day analyzing each other through unsettled eyes, guarding our very hearts for fear of broken trust. In the end we all miss out. We miss out on healthy relationships with other people, relationships where we can truly be ourselves because there is trust.

I am not saying you shouldn't lock your doors or have burglar alarms; society demands that. Just make sure they are on your cars and houses, not your hearts.

Cell Phones Are Trouble

By Katy McClure
STAFF REPORTER

Have you ever been sitting in a movie, engrossed in the plot only to be ripped from your concentration by the shrill ring of a cell phone? If you've gone out in public in the last year, you are sure to be familiar with the interruptions cell phones can cause. I cannot understand why someone would go to a movie or shopping just to spend their time talking on the phone. Can they not carry on phone conversations at home? Yes, cell phones do serve a purpose and are convenient in some situations, but do we really need them in all operations of life? It is not that devastating to miss a call or two during the few hours of a movie or a trip to the mall.

If you were at Senior Follies for the Saturday night show, then you heard a cell phone interrupt the Somecka skit. This interruption should not have happened; the cell phone should have been turned off. This brings me to the question: have cell phones come to rule their owners?

In response to this question, it certainly would seem that cell phones dictate many of our actions and decisions in life. As the owner of a cell phone, it is nearly impossible to escape the constant availability a cell phone forces upon that person. Cell phones are tools that increase other people's access to our lives; they force us to live several parts of our lives at once. Even though you are away from that particular friend at the time, you can't remove yourself from that person's presence. It has begun to seem that we need to have this constant accessibility in order to function in society.

Since it is nearly impossible to escape cell phones and their effects, it leads me to wonder if society's cell phone craze stems from our need to escape the isolation society has seemingly plunged us into. We have become so isolated as individuals that we can no longer turn our only tangible link to one another, our cell phones, off. If it is true that we are no longer capable of relating to one another on an emotional level, then it is altogether possible that our cell phones have become substitutes for human interaction.

I, too, own a cell phone and it has rung during movies. However, I have learned that cell phones can be turned off without the world ending.

Do Not Mistake Lovers of Life For Egotists

Laura King
STAFF ARTIST

Individualism is a tough word to define. Accordingly, it represents a stereotype that is difficult to tag on people. No one can really claim to be innocent of the "crime" of individualism because everyone is really guilty of it.

We are human beings; we are placed on this earth for the purpose of enjoying the life God has given us. In fact, why was individualism ever considered a negative attitude in the first place? As defined by Webster's Dictionary, individualism is a doctrine stating that the interests of the individual ought to be paramount. In other words, take care of yourself. This is not to say that we should abandon the interests of our fellow man. We are all in this life together, and as members of the human race we should naturally re-

member to help each other when life gets tough. There is a fine line between individualism and flat-out arrogance. Those who have many material possessions are often accused of narcissism or self-adulation. The truth is, it is not how much you have, but the way you go about having it that really matters. There are wealthy people who are compassionate, generous, and kind. Likewise, there are poor people who are detached, withdrawn, and inimical. Because those more materialistically privileged are more likely to stand out, they are the ones who are pinned with the "crime" of individualism.

Harvard thinker B.F. Skinner developed the concept of be-

haviorism; in an abbreviated sense, behaviorism supports the theory that when people and animals are rewarded for their

"It is not how much you have, but the way you go about having it."

behavior, they will continue doing it. Similarly, when human beings are rewarded with happiness because of the availability of material possessions, they will continue to desire these things. I found when I turned 16 that having a car gave me access to opportunities that were not available to me before I could drive. Therefore, I continue to drive the car. Does wanting a car make anyone a selfish person? Not necessarily. Those in this situation who are in fact selfish are those who use the fact that they own a car to belittle those people who are not quite so privileged. Materialism is a relative term; I am positive that people living in less economically proficient nations than our own would give anything to own a motorbike, or a wagon, or whatever it is that is considered desirable in that nation. Another common example is the criticism of students enrolled in private schools. They are often immediately written off as egotistical, unfairly, by many of those people who merely feel jealousy or the need to complain about something. Of course, some of them are guilty as charged, but there are plenty of shallow people in pub-

lic schools, too. I spent a weekend at Wake Forest University last fall because I thought I might like to go there, and all of the students I met were very friendly, regardless of the fact that many of their parents easily afforded the nearly \$30,000 price tag. Some people think that because the tuition there is high, the students must naturally be complacent and arrogant. I believe if someone feels like they belong at a particular school, then hey, more power to them! People should not automatically assume that they wanted to go there for the sole purpose of attaining bragging rights. It seems to me like that would be an awful waste of life.

Am I endorsing an attitude of materialism? Of course not. Rather, I am supporting an attitude, by definition, of individualism. I just hope that people will continue to take their trips, wear their clothes and go to their nice schools, but for all the right reasons. Hopefully, the majority of our more materialistically privileged society will indulge in these luxuries because they want to see the world, have a nice appearance, and get a good education, and not because they want to rub it in the face of someone who does not have the same opportunities that they do.

I am thankful that my parents can afford to send me off to college after I graduate from SouthMeck this spring so that I can get a good education. Does this make me or anyone else with similar ambitions, a person of bad character? No. Let's just hope that in the long run, more people will be able to keep their hearts in the right place.

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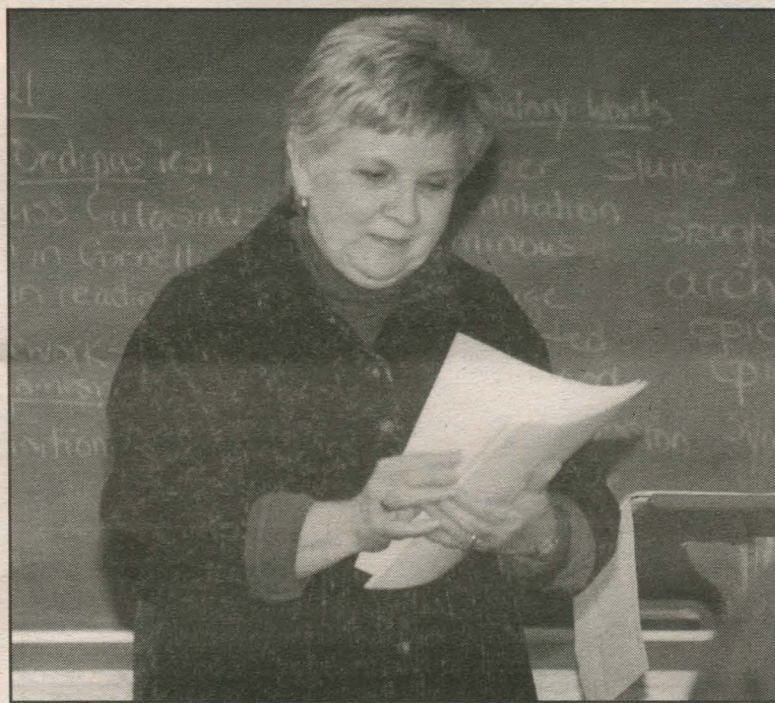
Teacher Spotlight

Mrs. Campbell: Cornell Notes and Sophomores

By Catherine Traphagan
EDITOR IN CHIEF

She is known throughout the school for her love of Cornell notes and sophomore English. She has taught at South for 16 years and has been head of the English department for nine years. She is Mrs. Campbell. "As far back as I can remember I have always wanted to teach. It just took a while to get around to it." Mrs. Campbell started her road to teaching at the University of Georgia but she paused her own college career to help her husband — you probably know him as Dr. Campbell — finish college and work. In the years that followed Mrs. Campbell did not have time to go back to college; she was too busy moving around and taking care of her three children. The Campbell family moved all over the country and all over the world, including Weurzburg, Germany, where the family lived for three years. This was her favorite residence out of all the places she and her family lived. The family came to rest in Elkin, North Carolina, where they settled down for 13 years.

While in Elkin, Mrs. Campbell attended the University of North Carolina at Greensboro



Julia Flumian/Staff Photographer

where she received her Bachelor of Arts. To further her career, Mrs. Campbell commuted 70 miles one way to University of North Carolina at Charlotte for seven years to receive her master's degree. At UNCC, Mrs. Campbell was elected to Phi Beta Kappa (the oldest academic fraternity in the United States) and in 1977, she graduated Magna Cum Laude.

Mrs. Campbell taught her first year at West Wilkes High School

in Millers Creek, N.C. Although there were some excellent teachers and students, the school was not focused on academics. "However, I did learn the importance of having clear goals." Mrs. Campbell went on to teach six years at Elkin High School, a small but excellent school. After one of these experiences, Mrs. Campbell finally reached South Mecklenburg, her favorite school yet!

Since 1979, Mrs. Campbell has taught sophomores — they are her surrogate children. "There are not many teachers who want to teach sophomores, but I actually like them," she says of the underclassmen. And the sophomores seem to like her as well. In fact, as sophomores become juniors and then seniors they still appreciate the valuable writing and thinking skills learned in her class. Missy Ratliff says that Mrs. Campbell really helped to improve her grammar skills. "Even though we all hated it at the time, she really did help!" Not only South Meck students think Mrs. Campbell is a one-of-a-kind

teacher. A former student from Elkin High School established a scholarship in honor of Mrs. Campbell. The student said that Mrs. Campbell was the first teacher who ever believed in him. In 1994, Mrs. Campbell was nominated by South Meck for First Union's Ben Craig Award for Outstanding Education.

High school is different now than it was years ago when Mrs. Campbell attended in Gainesville, Georgia. She regrets

that there were not as many opportunities for her generation as there are for the Class of 2000. However, Mrs. Campbell struggled with nearly the same issue during her high school years that we face now: integration and segregation. Mrs. Campbell experienced the effects of *Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education* as we are experiencing neighborhood schools versus busing. She says that she sympathizes with the confusion and overcrowding but she also understands that it is necessary

for the greater good of society.

As for the future, Mrs. Campbell worries only about the future

of possible online courses. She believes it would be sad to lose human contact but it could give more options, such as online discussions about Rasputin with a teenager in China. But in the end there will never be a replacement for the depth of human interactions that are met in school.

She offers one last word of advice: "Don't close doors on your future. What you do in high school does matter. It gives you opportunities."

QUOTE TO NOTE

"Don't close doors on your future."



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Rich Creamy Paint Stirs Up the Scene

Dip into *Rich Creamy Paint* — you'll come out feeling fine. Warm and fuzzy yet breezy cool. Fond of the past, positive toward the future and pretty darned pleased with the here and now. *Rich Creamy Paint* is a band, a boy actually, named Rich Painter. His album has an intriguingly vivid shade of rock: clear, bright, blissed-out and unpretentious.

Rich, 19, is currently residing in Nashville, though originally from Jacksonville, Florida where he started writing and recording songs when he was 11 years old. Actually he's been interested in music since he was 4 years old. He says he wanted to play drums and banged on paint cans until he got his first drum set when he was 5. He then composed his first song on a drum machine, called "Freeze It to the Beat," with help from his sisters. Later he made tapes in his basement on which he played all the instruments by himself and passed them out to friends, family and crushes. Eventually one tape found its way to Uncle Jon, a multi-instrumental producer, musician, and

writer. Impressed with Rich's material John started working with him.

sweet rumble of "Telephone number," the guitar squawk and spark of "Hanging Out," the

light-touch harmony of "You Make Me Laugh" fulfill the promise of immediacy, sparkle

as Built to Spill, Matthew Sweet, Ben Folds Five. His point of view is conveyed through earnest emotion, honesty, and charm. He's not trying to be anyone else, "I'm a real honest guy," he says. "This album is my life up to this point."

In an interview Rich says that he would like his music to be compared to catchy rock and roll because his music is passionate and catchy. He says his music experience has been a learning one so far, though he admits the business side can be a drag sometimes. He would like to have presented a Grammy to Stevie Ray Vaughn before he died, because he and his playing were the essence of what music and emotion converging with total passion and honesty is supposed to sound like.

Finally he credits his father and uncle with helping him accomplish his goals. "They have been supportive every step of the way," Rich says.



The record conveys earnest adolescent emotion with pure, simple charm. The crunchy-

clock-tick drumming of head-bopper "A.D.D.," the chiming of "High School" and the joyous

and innocence the song titles suggest.

Rich credits his influences

COMPILED BY
Larisa Yasinovskaya

Showdown: Oscars 2000

By Jennifer Samuels
CENTERSPREAD EDITOR

Oscar season is upon us. The Academy Awards are the most prestigious award given out for excellence in the movie industry. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is made up of many members of the Hollywood community.

This year's Oscar race is shaping up to be one quite different from last year. This year there is no clear front runner for any of the awards, making it an exciting race that will be fought out until the end and provide many surprises on the big night.

For best picture, the majority of the nominees, especially *The Cider House Rules* and *The Green Mile*, were unexpected and produced audible gasps when the nominations were announced. Unfortunately, *The Green Mile* has very little chance to win because of precedent. Its director is not nominated for an award, and history shows that very, very few pictures have won the top prize without the director at least being nominated. *The Cider House Rules* was a surprising nomination because of the mixed reviews and low box office it received when it first opened. *The Sixth Sense* and *The Insider* were both thought of as serious contenders; however, they come from opposite ends of the spectrum. The former was a major hit that made over \$100 million dollars domestically and is continuing its reign. The latter is a critical favorite that deals with a tobacco execu-

tive who ratted out his industry to *60 Minutes*. Finally, there is *American Beauty*, the favorite going into the race. This suburban epic was widely expected to get many nominations and did not disappoint, receiving the most out of all the pictures nominated.

On the acting front, the vast majority of nominees are relative unknowns to the general public. Many of the nominees for best director are also first time nominees. Most of the movies this year that were box-office smashes, including the *Austin Powers* sequel and *The Matrix*, received nominations on the technical front.

As in any year, there were many notable absences among the nominees. Perhaps the most notable is the absence of *The Talented Mr. Ripley* from all major categories, with the exception of Jude Law's nod for best supporting actor. Also absent from major nominations was the highly original movie *Being John Malkovich*. This movie, about a man who discovers a portal into actor John Malkovich's brain and de-

cides to sell trips on it, was arguably the most original movie of the year. It was even speculated that John Malkovich could receive the first ever best supporting actor nomination for playing oneself. Additionally, Jim Carrey was overlooked for his genius mimic of comedian Andy Kaufman in *Man on the Moon*, a shutout of the actor that is that is now in its second year.

If I Picked the Winners...

BEST PICTURE

Hands down, the winner should be and will be *American Beauty*. The highly original script, coupled with strong performances from every cast member, make this an *American* year. However, dark horses *The Sixth Sense* and *The Cider*



American Beauty

House Rules cannot be overlooked. The Academy does not usually reward huge pictures like *Sense*, but again, an original script and breakout performance by Haley Joel Osment may be enough to sail it through as a winner. However, barring an *American Beauty* backlash, the dark horses probably will not

muster up much of a gallop.

BEST ACTOR

Kevin

Spacey should win this award. His portrayal of the protagonist in *American Beauty* was one of the most subtle and brilliant performances of the year.



Denzel Washington

However, Denzel Washington's standout performance as boxer Rubin Carter in *The Hurricane* cannot be discounted by anyone. He walked away with the Golden Globe for best actor and is Spacey's toughest competition. In the long run, though, I believe that Kevin Spacey will triumph.

SUPPORTING ACTOR

This is Tom Cruise's year. His performance as a self-help guru in *Magnolia* was the most buzzed-about element of this epic movie. However, don't discount *The Sixth Sense*'s Haley Joel Osment. He's a cute kid who gave a very strong performance that will not soon be forgotten.

BEST ACTRESS

If anyone else besides

Hilary Swank wins this award, it will be a travesty. Swank was nominated for portraying Teena

Brandon, a midwestern woman who chose to pass herself off as a man and ended up paying the ultimate price - her life - in *Boys Don't Cry*. Her performance was incredibly powerful and moving, and her full encompassing of Brandon's character bordered on genius. This is Swank's year. Expect her to win.

SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Chloe Sevigny, for *Boys Don't Cry*, deserves this award. She matched her costar's powerful performance with an equally moving portrayal of the woman whom Brandon loved. However, don't discount popular Golden Globe winner Angelina Jolie for *Girl, Interrupted*. Sevigny deserves this award, but her movie may be too small for the Academy to recognize twice.

BEST ORIGINAL SONG

"Blame Canada" from *South Park*. A funny song from a hilarious movie. Very deserving.



Hilary Swank

Senior Mysteries



Katy McClure
STAFF REPORTER

This senior is known around school for his crazy attitude and comedic sense of humor. He is involved in the marching band and jazz band and spends a lot of time practicing his trumpet. This French-speaking senior mystery spends his free time driving around in his blue minivan and working at Express Stats where he analyzes fantasy basketball and baseball statistics. He describes himself as a "crazy Greek who can't wait to graduate." If you still can't figure out who this senior is, perhaps you've heard him talk about the time he spent in Greece this summer or you saw him dance as a Letter Guy in last year's pep rally. Check page 11.



By Catherine Traphagan
EDITOR IN CHIEF

This senior mystery has lots of Sabre Spirit. But you won't find her around school very much because she spends her time in front of computers for yearbook. When she's not giving directions to the yearbook staff, this senior sabre is teaching swim lessons at the YMCA or practicing the piano. Maybe you have seen her arriving at school late in her green Saturn or stage managing Senior Follies. She also spends much time volunteering at her church. Still don't know? You may recognize her from a distance by her red hair. She is also Vice President of S.O.S, co-editor of the yearbook staff, and Miss South. Check page 11 to discover the answer.

Teacher Mysteries



By Dustin Joyce
GRAPHICS EDITOR

This teacher mystery grew up on the beach, which remains her favorite place in the world. Having grown up on the coast, she saw a mountain, Grandfather Mountain, for the first time only three years ago. In fact, by the beginning of her senior year of high school, the farthest west and north she'd ever come was Raleigh. In the spring of her senior year, she traveled a little farther west to visit UNC-Charlotte, where she decided to attend. She left in the summer of 1998 with a degree in chemistry. In the summer of 1999, she got married. Now she has two mailboxes in the teacher workroom — one for her old name and one for her new name. Still don't know who this teacher is? Go to page 11.



By Clark Barrineau
STAFF REPORTER

This teacher is well known for his humor and ability to teach. He teaches World History and is the former wrestling coach of the Sabres. He is noticed daily for his "teaching off a cart" method, and students are always willing to help him if anything should fall. He appears at school everyday in his Lexus, ready to teach. Still stumped? "He knows everything about history," says his student Jason Nark. He also has a part-time job downtown teaching swim lessons. This teacher annually takes trips to foreign countries and is a traveler of the world. Guessed yet? Maybe you've seen his kids around the campus. Still don't know who the teacher is? Then turn to page 11 for the answer.

Student Forum

Communists Have No Place at South

Dear *The Sabres' Blade*,

It has come to my attention that your publication has become nothing more than a forum for communist propaganda. As a hard working, capitalist loving American, I am deeply disturbed. Hear me when I say, this paper stinks of Lenin! To quote the article in the February 14, 2000 edition of the *Sabres' Blade*, "I am...an advocate of communism."

It is obvious that there are communists among us and for them I have a message. If you don't like it in America, leave! Go back to your five-hour bread lines where no one gives up their seat to pregnant women because there are no seats to share.

I am now calling for an all out communist witch hunt that would make Sen. McCarthy proud. I hoped it wouldn't come to this, but I have in my possession a list of known communists attending South Meck. We must now weed out these cancers to society and make American pure again. We must start at South Meck.

I will now leave you with a quote from a well know patriotic song: "And I am proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free." I challenge everyone to come together against communism and make America a safe place for our children and our children's children.

Sen. McCarthy, Jr.

Walk on the Walkway

Dear *The Sabres' Blade*,

Let me pose a question. What is the purpose of a walkway? Apparently, at this school, it is not to walk. I find it quite annoying that every time I try to walk to class, I am blocked by 20 people discussing their weekend.

I know that this comes as a shock to you, but some people actually go to class. Would it be that hard to actually clear the sidewalk and have your little rendezvous on the grass? Do you not realize that you are blocking people?

Please use your brains, and next time you see people walking on the walkway, move!

A very perturbed student

Parking Still a Problem

Dear *The Sabres' Blade*,

I am writing to express my concern about the parking situation here at South. Correct me if I am wrong, but isn't the upper lot for seniors and the lower lot for juniors? Well, then why are 40 juniors parking in the upper lot while several seniors are denied of the privilege they deserve? Part of being a senior is being able to park on pavement and escape the dusty ex-

istence of the lower lot. There would be enough room for all the seniors if the juniors were not taking up those spaces. Juniors with preferred parking and carpools can park in the tennis court lot if they want to be away from other juniors that badly.

Not only is there a problem with juniors in the upper lot, sophomores have also been causing problems in the lower lot. As I said, lower lot is for juniors! Sophomores have over-

crowded the lower lot so badly that some juniors are being forced to park above the baseball fields. If sophomores want so badly to drive to school, why don't they park above the baseball fields instead of driving juniors out of their rightful spots? So, if you don't belong where you are parking, think of all the people losing their earned privileges for your convenience.

La Toya Luther

Apology ? I Don't Think So

Dear *The Sabres' Blade*,

Some people suggested that I write a retraction to my article. In response to that I say no. I will not apologize to the people who didn't read the article beyond the headline and then chose to complain about my supposed hate of capitalism.

Once and for all, I will explain that "The Social Evil of Capitalism" article meant that people should be nice and respectful to each other. The side of capitalism that I was talking about being evil is the social side effect

of its economic policy. The economic policy of capitalism forces people to look out primarily for their own needs, and that sometimes translates into people's social relationships and interactions — thus causing them to be rude. Never did I say that the economic system of capitalism is bad; on the contrary, it's the best in existence in the world today (economically speaking only) — in my opinion.

Many people came up and asked me how I could handle all the criticism, and whether I was

offended or not. Those who know me, know that it takes quite a bit to offend me, but more than that I was actually thoroughly amused by people's reactions. Funny how vehement people become when the rose-colored glasses through which they see an idealistic America are removed for a minute. Even funnier, the hypocrisy they exemplify by criticizing the article's placement in the paper, and in that, blatantly speaking against the First Amendment.

Larisa Yasinovskaya

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MARCH

MADNESS

SPRING BREAK 2000

By Jennifer Samuels
CENTERSPREAD EDITOR

As March begins, the cold starts to subside and students' minds drift towards the end of April and spring break! Spring break 2000 is shaping up to be very exciting. Although most of South is planning to fill the jails at Cherry Grove next month, there are some students who refuse to go to South Carolina beaches due to the state's flying of the Confederate battle flag. It will be very intriguing to see who chooses to participate in this boycott, but for the most part many students will still be heading to the Myrtle Beach area.

Other areas of the country that will see many South students include Florida, Georgia, and the North Carolina coast. After all, who can resist the lure of Wilmington - *Dawson's Creek* and suntans all in one! Speaking of the sun, students need to

be reminded that the only safe tan comes out of a bottle. Baking in the sun causes skin cancer and wrinkles, and though a fresh tan may look good for the moment, students will pay for it later in life.

Safety is another big issue. From heatstroke to binge drinking, there are many dangers to be aware of. No matter what activities you choose to participate in, do it safely. Use common sense and avoid any dangerous situations where trouble is unavoidable.

Unfortunately, the school board has taken away the first two days of spring break due to snow, but many students plan on being sick those two days.

The most important thing to remember is to have fun and make this spring break memorable! Take lots of pictures and don't forget to enjoy the freedom!

An informal poll was taken of South's student body regarding Spring Break 2000. Here are the results:

Where are you going for spring break?

60% of students said somewhere in South Carolina

25% of students said the North Carolina Coast

10% said Florida

5% said somewhere else exotic and exciting - lucky!

What are you most looking forward to?

75% of students said that the thing they anticipated most about spring break was the chance to bond with their friends

15% look forward to being on their own for a week, without the watchful eyes of parents

10% said things they plan to do that aren't appropriate for a school publication

Are you excited about spring break?

100% of students surveyed answered a loud "YES" to this question. No surprise there. The chance to get away from school for a week is an experience that most students relish

THE LUCK O' THE IRISH: THE HISTORY OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY

By Lindsay Buchert
STAFF REPORTER

The luck of the Irish: St. Patrick's Day, a holiday based on religion and Irish nationalism, has become a celebration for people of all religions and ethnic backgrounds.

The feast began with St. Patrick, born in Roman Britain around 389 AD, who was captured by pirates and sold into slavery as a boy. After six years of labor, he escaped to the mainland of Europe and returned to Britain. He later became a bishop of Ireland, using a shamrock to teach aspects of religion. Also, according to legend, he is attributed to running all the snakes out of Ireland. His feast day is celebrated on March 17th.

Now the saint's day is a major celebratory event throughout the United States and the world. Some of the ways people celebrate, whether of Irish descent or not, are wearing green, holding St. Patty's Day parades, and adding green food coloring to all types of food.

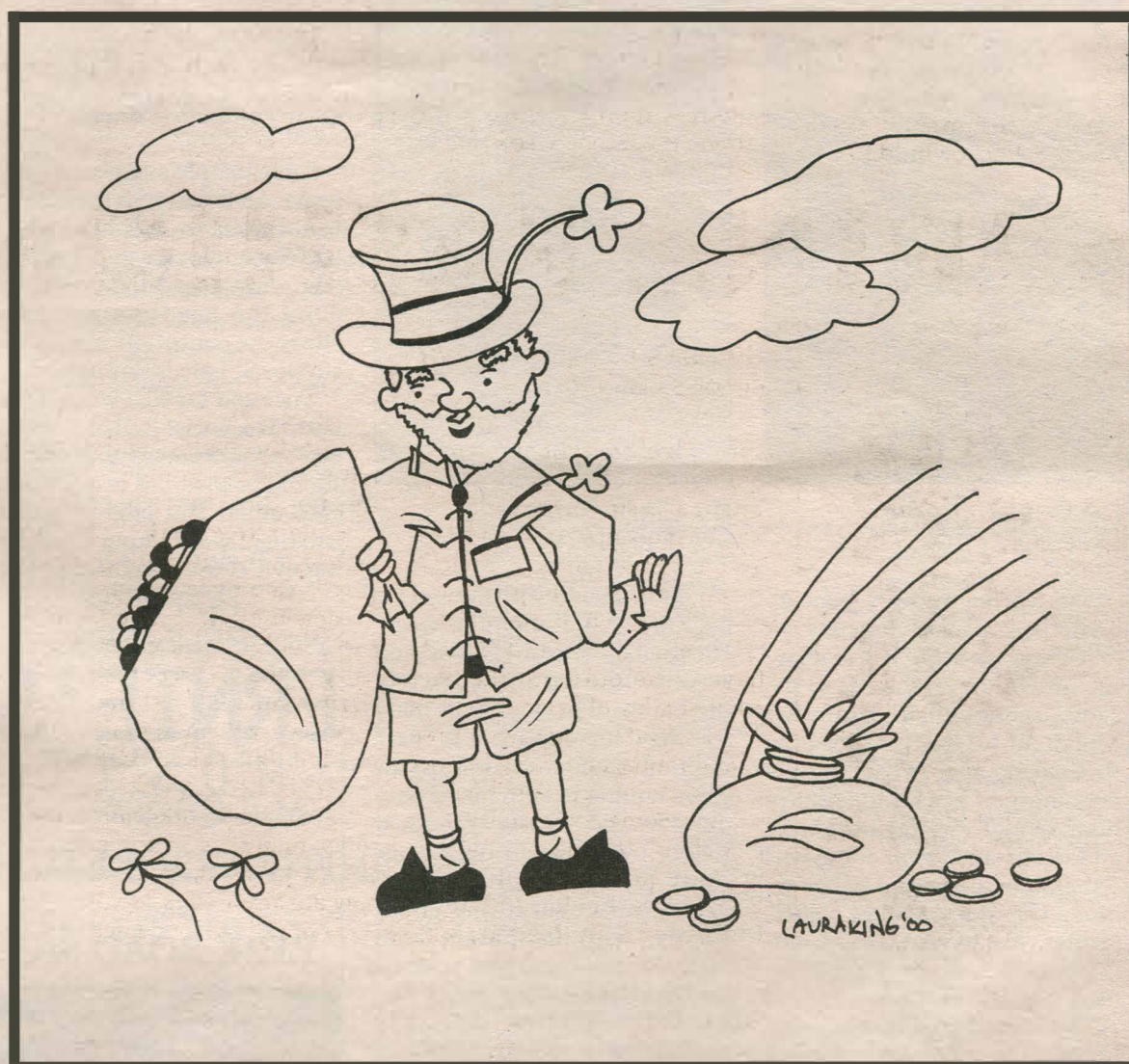
The color green is usually worn, and it is not unusual for one to be "pinched" for not wearing it. Just be sure you

don't wear orange. This dates back to William of Orange, a Protestant leader in England who forced King James II to abdicate the throne during the Glorious Revolution. Since James II was a Catholic king, many Irish Catholics don't take too highly to people wearing orange on their holiday.

Along with wearing green, parades are usually held. Although Charlotte holds one, one of the largest is in New York City. It features marching bands, Irish dancers, and others common to the Irish culture.

Perhaps most synonymous with St. Patrick's Day, though, are the parties. Whether they are small localized parties or parties held throughout a city, it seems everyone is partying on St. Patrick's Day. Cities such as Savannah, Georgia are famous for their large celebrations of this holiday. What Mardi Gras is to New Orleans, St. Patrick's Day is to Savannah.

However you choose to celebrate, Happy St. Patrick's Day!



The leprechaun is a traditional Irish symbol seen on St. Patrick's day. Legend says that he will find a pot o'gold on the other side of the rainbow.

March: A Month of Transition — the cold of winter ends, and the warmth of spring begins. From Senioritis to class registration, South also undergoes many transitions. *The Sabres' Blade* takes a look at what makes the month of March unique and exciting.

MARCH WINDS BRING...

Senioritis? That's right, 'tis the season for slacking off. Are you afraid you've been infected? Read on to find out a little more about this disease and its symptoms.

By Jennifer Samuels
CENTERSPREAD EDITOR

It's an illness like no other. The signs of it are evident from the very beginning. Even little freshmen standing in the circle waiting for their rides feel a strong desire to break free from the constraints of high school and attend their long-awaited goal: college. As sophomore year rolls around, students have become more accustomed to the daily grind required of them. They still dream of college, but at this point getting through the day (and the writing test, and homework, and so on) become their primary focus.

Junior year is when the symptoms really begin to show. Although it is the most important year, the one that colleges look at and judge the most harshly, it is the year in which students truly begin to have fun. Symptoms, from a frequently empty lower lot to empty seats in many junior classes, begin to manifest themselves.

Then summer passes. Sooner than most would like an

sooner than most can believe, senior year is upon them. At this point senioritis is in its full-blown stage. Empty parking spaces abound in the upper lot, and every day is senior out to lunch. Twelfth graders walk around school with an attitude about them that lets everyone know that they are seniors - the top of the heap.

One may wonder how to identify a sufferer of senioritis. It's really quite easy. Sufferers will typically be wearing casual clothes, seeing as how they are past the stage of needing to impress anyone. Senioritis victims rarely carry a bookbag, seeing as how they rarely do homework and thus have no need for books. However, there are two key accessories that no senioritis sufferer will be caught dead without: their car keys and early release pass.

Don't worry. The disease is not permanent. In fact, most sufferers report feeling better around the second week of June.

Be on the lookout for the following symptoms:

- Tremors and shaking at the mere mention of a long-term project

- A well-worn, much-used senior exit hand-book. NOT!

- Severe procrastination. The phrase "I have a 2,000 word *Hamlet* essay due next period? Dang, I'd better start, then" becomes quite familiar

- An abnormal amount of absences from 3rd/7th period classes. Might as well mark it senior out to lunch makeups!



A typical victim of senioritis spends some time soaking up the rays and relaxing

SPRING FASHION PREVIEW



Marie Claire Magazine

Snakeskin, one of the season's hottest trends

By Larisa Yasinovskaya
BUSINESS MANAGER

The fashion forecast this spring looks bright and sunny. No dark, gloomy colors, only bright and summery shades.

In makeup, coral and tangerine colors are hot. Sounds strange at first, but just about anyone can pull it off with the right shade. Several brands have come out with the new coral shades of spring; Revlon and L'Oreal are just two of the store brands, and Estee Lauder is one of the department store brands. Some colors to try, that just about anyone can pull off are Clinique lipstick SPF 15 in Wildflower, Revlon ColorStay Liquid Lip in Nectar, and Tommy Hilfiger Fresh Talk Conditioning Lip Color in Country. Also try Cover Girl CG Smoothers Lip Color in Papaya Sorbet.

With clothes, fruity colors are in. Anything from cherry and raspberry to lemon and lime will do. Try matching a lipcolor or nailcolor to those fun shades. Florals are also big. Try

a flowing dress with orchard flowers this spring, and if you have the courage, the newest trend — floral sandals.

The retro '60s look is hot right now with bold "Pucci" prints. Don't wear them all together, though, just add one piece with a solid color. Anything python is in, but don't restrict yourself to just the usual tones, wear them in violet, red, or blue. But again, only wear one piece with something more tame. However, don't forget the other members of the animal kingdom. Prints from zebra to cow are also in this season.

Fringe is no longer reserved for evening. Spice up your wardrobe with some fringe on jeans, tanks, and purses. If you're feeling creative, you can add some yourself to some old, boring pieces. However, if you are one of the truly brave ones, give the white leather trend a try; it looks great with a tan.

In accessories, one of the new chokers is a must-have.

There are so many different styles out and finding one to suit your tastes and price range should not be difficult. The wide, beaded ones are a big hit.

Dresses are very in this spring. Try a bright wrap around, or one of the cool shirt-dresses. The jean style jacket and denim pant (worn low with a flat front) are this season's must have. The just-below-the-knee skirt doesn't seem to be going anywhere. Wear it low slung and pencil shape and pair it with a fitted shirt or a cropped boatneck. It also goes great with this season's flat thong or strappy sandal.

Remember that just a few new pieces matched with things you already have in your closet can bring your wardrobe up to date. Get a snake-skin skirt, a pair of thong sandals, a hip choker and you're on your way to being fashionable this spring.

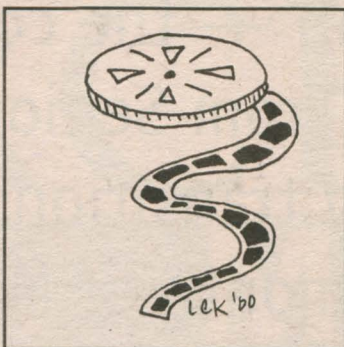


Marie Claire Magazine

Pucci prints and a pleated skirt

CURRENT MOVIES

<i>The Beach</i>	★ ★ ☆
<i>Boiler Room</i>	★ ★ ☆
<i>The Cider House Rules</i>	★ ★ ★ ☆
<i>Wonder Boys</i>	★ ★ ★
<i>Girl, Interrupted</i>	★ ★ ★
<i>Tumbleweeds</i>	★ ★ ★



Stroke 9 and Vertical Horizon Sell Out Tremont Music Hall

Laura King
STAFF ARTIST

Stroke 9 and Vertical Horizon headlined a concert at Tremont Music Hall on February 16 that attracted a sellout crowd. It marked only one in a long series of shows slated on a cross-country tour to promote the two bands' newest albums, *Nasty Little Thoughts* and *Everything You Want*, respectively.

Radford, a trio from Los Angeles, opened the night with six original songs. Their performance included "Don't Stop," the single that is frequently requested on 106.5 The End. Talented and promising, they set the stage for Stroke 9 and Vertical Horizon, who unlike Radford have both made their marks on the national music scene.

The San Francisco-based Stroke 9, though traveling along with Vertical Horizon instead of vice versa, played a show worthy of a solo performance; after hearing a few of their songs, I felt assured that I had gotten my money's worth for the price of the ticket. They played nearly every song off their latest album, including "Letters," "Tear Me in Two," and "Little Black Backpack," the crowd-pleasing single that has recently been enjoying lots of air time on sev-

eral area radio stations including 106.5 The End and Kiss 95.1. Because any band can produce a decent track in the studio, Stroke 9 verified their talent with excellent change-ups, which are hard to execute on the live stage, and constant improvisations that really spiced up their sound. Their performance enticed me to purchase the CD *Nasty Little Thoughts*, which turned out to be one of those rare CDs that you can manage to listen to all the way through. The California boys thoroughly impressed the Charlotte crowd before leaving the stage to the show's headliner, Vertical Horizon.

Vertical Horizon, a talented quartet that began as an acoustic duo playing to Georgetown University frat parties in 1991, has quickly made the transition from small scale club performers to a hot band with a major label record and a spot in the national limelight. Matt Scannell and Keith Kane, the band's original members, showed off their wide range of talent with difficult electric and acoustic guitar parts as well as great vocals; drummer Ed Toth made use of his colossal 20-plus-piece set with intricate rhythms,

while 27-year-old bassist Sean Hurley, the youngest and newest member of the group, played a difficult bass line that demanded both speed and diversity of playing style. Like Stroke 9, they played mainly the tracks off their latest album, including their signature songs "We Are" and "Everything You Want," as well as several songs from older albums that were produced before the band signed with a major label. I was impressed with their ability to change their music. Halfway through the show, they began mid-song to cover Stroke 9's "Little Black Backpack," which the crowd found humorous and entertaining. Overall, their performance surpassed my expectations, even though I am an avid fan of their music.

Since this is a review, I feel obliged to give the three bands somewhat of a rating. It was one of the best live shows I've seen, with the exception of those by The Dave Matthews Band, widely believed to be one of the best live bands in the business. Having heard all of the band's latest albums with the exception of Radford (whose debut will be released in mid-March), I recommend them to just about anyone.

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Mandy Moore's So Real: At 15, How Real Could It Be?

Katy McClure
STAFF REPORTER

Has anyone noticed that it is harder and harder to find good music? With "teen pop artists" at the top of the charts, on radio and television, I have to wonder where the "art" has gone in artist. It seems that lately, singers are experiencing success based on how well their record label "sells" them to the public. Mandy Moore, the newest teen sensation, is the latest example of the pop industry's marketing of music. The 15-year-old singer has just released her first album. Entitled *So Real*, it is packed with predictable lyrics, generic beats, and only a semi-impressive vocal performance.

Moore's album is not one that music fans will remember in future years. It is safe to say that the songs are some of the least memorable releases of the recent pop explosion. The title track *So Real* sounds like every other pop song with its familiar beat, hook, and chorus. Even the occasional ballad on the album has the feel of some song I might have heard before. Perhaps if her vocal

performance was a little better, she could have gotten away with these basic songs. However, her greatest vocal achievement on this album was not hitting any flat notes and avoiding singing through her nose...most of the time.

The first single off the record, *So Real*, has recently made regular appearances on MTV's Total Request Live, and continues to dominate the air-waves of numerous radio stations. The song is a good representation of the album: generic, unoriginal, and for lack of a better word, cheesy. Why, then, is the song doing well? Perhaps it is the marketing of a new "teen sensation" that persuades pop fans to request the song and buy the record. I will not hesitate to say that this record is a waste of money. If you've heard one song, you've heard them all. Granted, the beats may make you get up and dance or put you in a good mood when you're feeling down, but if you're looking for an album with any artistic merit at all, I would avoid *So Real* from

Prom Dining

Hot spots for the big night, ranging from moderately priced restaurants to all-out splurgers.

--Price ranges are listed with "\$" being cheap and "\$\$\$\$" being a splurger.

THE LAMPLIGHTER--1065 E. Morehead Street. Exquisite atmosphere and service. Romantic, but pricey. Call 372-5343. \$\$\$\$

BISTRO 100--100 N. Tryon Street in the Nations Bank Corporate Center. Great roasted chicken, salmon and vegetables. Call 344-0515. \$\$-\$\$\$.

BRAVO! RISTORANTE--555 S. McDowell, in Adams Mark Hotel. Authentic Italian cuisine, and waiters who are also professional singers. Call 372-4100. \$\$-\$\$\$.

MELTING POT--Kings Court Plaza, Kings Drive. For anyone who is fond of fondues including cheese, beef, seafood, chicken, etc etc. Warning to girls!!! Everyone at prom will be able to smell where you went to dinner. Call 344-4400. \$\$\$

PALM RESTAURANT--6705 Phillips Place Court. Relaxed, unpretentious atmosphere with foods ranging from Clams Casino to the All-American steak. Call 552-7256. Great, but hard on the poor guy's wallet. \$\$\$\$.

MORTON'S OF CHICAGO--THE STEAKHOUSE--227 West Trade Street (Carillon Building). Known for great steaks and elegance. Pricey though! Call 333-2602. \$\$\$\$

SOUTHEND BREWERY AND SMOKEHOUSE--2100 South Blvd. Eclectic cuisine and great atmosphere. Call 358-HOPS. \$\$-\$\$\$.

SWING 1000--1000 Central Avenue. Great dishes and glamorous setting to go with entertainment and dancing. Pricey for the guys. Call 334-4443. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$.

SILVER CRICKET--4705 South Blvd. French and American cuisine. Dining in style without stuffiness. Call 525-0061. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$.

HARPER'S RESTAURANT--6518 Fairview Road and 301 E. Woodlawn Road. Excellent service and great desserts. Call 552-8376 for the Woodlawn location and 366-6688 for the South Park location. \$\$

Information compliments of *Creative Loafing* magazine and compiled by Laura King.



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Faces in the Crowd

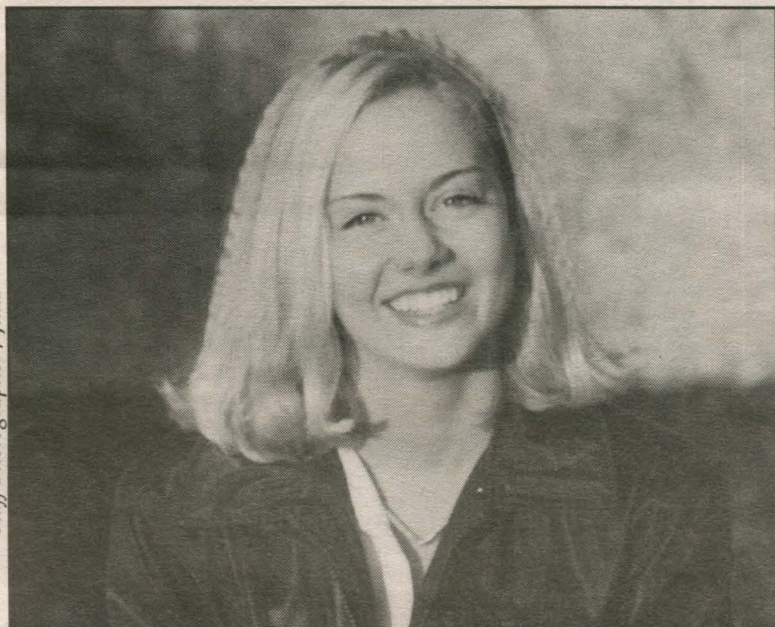
Kerry Thaxton: Dancing Her Way to Success

By Katy McClure
Neil Smith
STAFF REPORTER

Kerry Thaxton can often be found working hard behind the hostess stand at Providence Bistro. If she is not working, she is most likely at Lettergirl practice or shopping.

Kerry has been a Lettergirl since she was a sophomore. This year, she was named as a co-captain of not only the Lettergirls, but of Winter Guard as well. Most of the South Meck student body saw Kerry in the 2000 Reverse Homecoming Pep Rally dancing as Christina Aguilera.

Even though most people associate her with Lettergirls, as Kerry's long-time friend Cathryn Blanton put it, "There is more to Kerry than meets the eye."



Staff Photographer / Julia Flumian

In CD Player: Backstreet Boys
Admired Person: Princess Diana
Favorite Food: Spaghetti
Pet Peeve: Slow Drivers

Kerry is a very talented clarinet player. She participates in Marching Band and Wind Ensemble. She is also involved in the Commercial Arts and Octagon Clubs and is a very conscientious student.

Kerry strives to make good grades in all her classes. She takes challenging courses, such as AP statistics, AG English, AG US history, and businesslaw. Kerry holds a spot among the top 30 percent of her class with a current GPA of 4.2.

Kerry hopes to attend North Carolina State University, major in graphic design, and pursue a career in it as well. With her future plans, she knows focus is important. She is looking forward to graduation, "I love it here at South but I'm ready to get out and go to college."

THE SABRES' BLADE

Opinion Question

Do you think our society places too much value on celebrities?

"Yes, just because celebrities have the job of acting doesn't make them any different from doctors who have the job of treating patients, as an example. Just because they are in the public eye, it doesn't mean they are any more important than other people."

Megan White
GRADE 11

"Yes. We put them up on pedestals when, in reality, they are no better than the rest of us."

Carrie Stozek
GRADE 10

"Yes, because they supposedly live the life that everybody wants to live. That is the lavish life without any problems and happiness all of the time."

Donald Stinson
GRADE 10

"Yes, celebrities are just as normal as the rest of society before fame and fortune, so why should we overvalue them?"

Mark Hendrix
GRADE 12

"Yes, they don't always set good examples anyhow, like with the whole too thin look."

La Toya Luther
GRADE 9

Yes, I do because society tends to base all the trends and new stuff on something they saw on TV or the movies.

Jenny Bordon
GRADE 9

"Yes, because sometimes they are just people like us."

Tyler O
GRADE 9

COMPILED BY
Meg Caldwell

Sean Curtis: A Busy Yet Focused Junior

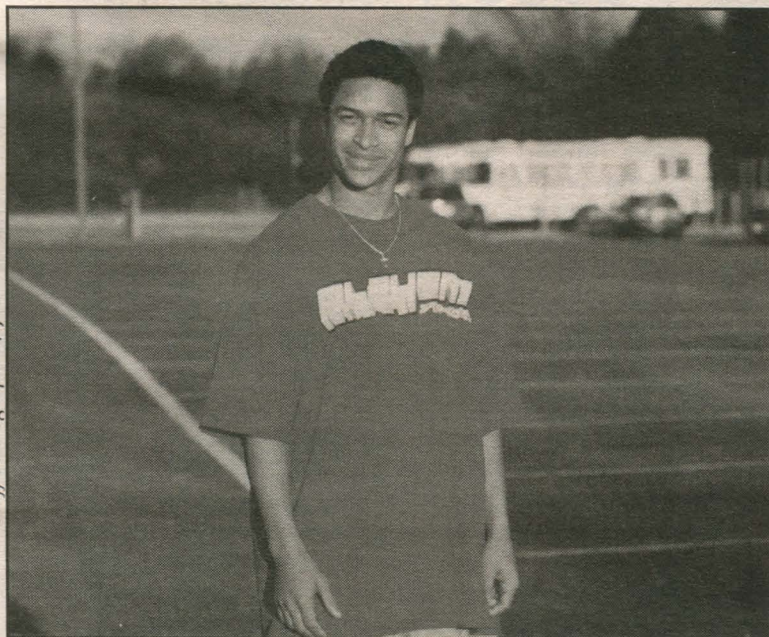
Stefanie Trotta
STAFF REPORTER

"My personality, hmm... sweet, caring, loving, and optimistic."

It's not often you find a guy that meets all these qualities, but charm is just the beginning of Sean Curtis.

This junior definitely keeps himself busy with the extracurriculars around campus. In the fall, he was seen chanting in the courtyard before school with the rest of the football team; in the winter he was on the basketball courts with the other varsity guys, and Sean can currently be seen running around South with the track team. He is also a member of our recently created guys' step-team called K K.

Sean is an active member of his church. He's involved in



Staff Photographer / Julia Flumian

Favorite Show: Wayans Brothers
Favorite Food: Pizza
In CD Player: Mob D
Dream Date: Jennifer Lopez

the choir and serves as an usher, too. When he's not busy with school, sports, or any of the other extracurricular activities he participates in, Sean enjoys going to the mall or simply throwing a football around with the guys.

As far as college goes, Sean plans to stay in Charlotte and to attend UNCC where he wants to major in communications. He credits his dedication and determination to his father. "He teaches me a lot and has shown me right from wrong. We've been through a lot together," he says.

All in all, Sean Curtis contains many qualities that other South students should strive to attain. He could easily be considered a role model for his peers. He advises teenagers to "live every day to the fullest because tomorrow is not promised."

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The Fall of the Tarheels

By Alexi Neill
SPORTS CO-EDITOR

This year has seen many changes within the rankings of college basketball. Traditional powerhouses such as North Carolina, UCLA, and Kentucky no longer dominate the top 5 or even the top 10. Newer programs such as Stanford, Florida, and Auburn are now dominating the scene. The ACC conference has also taken a hit because North Carolina can no longer keep up with Duke on top of the ACC. The ACC is usually one of the best conferences in college basketball but this year they can barely keep up with the Conference USA. The ACC only deserves to send four teams at the most to the NCAA tournament when they usually send 5-6 teams.

This year Duke is once again breezing through its conference without any competition from North Carolina. Many people thought that Duke would have a sub-par year after losing four starters to the NBA but they continue to be a top 5 team in the nation. Many more people thought that this would be North Carolina's year to shine but they continue to falter. North Carolina may not even reach the 20 win plateau this year which would be the first time in many years that they have not done this, and they are also on the bubble for getting a NCAA tournament bid.

North Carolina fans are dumbfounded by how badly their team is playing because they have so many talented players. The fact is that they no longer have a coach because Bill Guthridge cannot get the job done. Dean Smith made their program work and without him they are not even a top 25 team. There is no way that North Carolina will ever be able to replace him and therefore they will be kissing Duke's feet for the next several years. North Carolina had better start focusing on winning the NIT title rather than the NCAA title. North Carolina has been a great part of basketball history but it is now time for newer dynasties to be built heading into the next century.

March madness is just around the corner so I will give you my picks for the tournament. I think that Duke, Stanford, Temple, and Michigan State will be the teams to beat. Duke is young and they only have a six or seven man rotation, but these players are all very talented. Stanford has a solid squad and they have been ranked number 1 for most of the year. Temple has proven all year long that they can beat tough opponents, while senior guard Mateen Cleaves will carry Michigan State on his shoulders. The winner, however, will be Duke, seeing that they should have won the tournament last year.

Big Things Expected for Sabre Baseball in 2000

By John Lakas
SPORTS CO-EDITOR

Everyone knows that when it comes to South Mecklenburg sports baseball is something we dominate. One of the reasons is South is able to obtain good talent each year. Players like Chris Jones, who skipped college to go straight to the pros, contribute a lot to a program's success. Talent can allow teams to win big games but it must be developed, and that is something Coach Hal Bagwell is known for. In the past three years Coach Bagwell has led the Sabre baseball team to an overall record of 63-28. Along with Providence, South has dominated the SW4A conference with a record of 41-12. After last year's spectacular season, highlighted by reaching the state 4A championship, South has a lot to live up to in 2000.

This year the Sabres line-up is not as impressive on paper, but there are some valuable players waiting to be discovered. The team is returning six starters led by last year's All-Conference players Deron Chase, Mike Roane, and Patrick Allen. Two other strong returning seniors are Matt Lockrem, and Brian Neill, both of whom are expected to step into the



Julia Flumian/Staff Photographer

spotlight this year. Despite losing key players Craig Withrow, Evan Kalczuk, and Corey Wood, the team has some new talent to cover the losses. Among them is Providence High senior transfer, Danny Futrell, who Coach Bagwell has high expectations for. Younger players Chip Pope and Clayton Rinay are also expected to make some large contributions to the team.

Coach Bagwell knows the expectations are high for this team and people will be looking for South to be in the state play-

off hunt again. "The key to this team's success will be big game experience and defense. I cannot emphasize enough how important our defense is to winning games on a consistent basis," says Coach Bagwell. Pitching is one area South has always been strong in, Matt Lockrem and David Spain should be leaders in this group. Deron Chase will use his power to lead the team in batting and with the rest of the team batting well South should have another impressive season.

Lacrosse Looking to Have a Great Season With Student Body Help

Neil Smith
STAFF WRITER

If soccer and baseball are too boring to watch, there is another option for this year's spring sports spectator. South's lacrosse club is gearing up for its forth and most promising season. The lacrosse team began playing in late February and for the first time called the football stadium its home field. This should make it easy for

fans to come support South's fastest growing sports team and take in hard-hitting action.

The year's team will be exciting to watch. The return of most of last season's starters will put the lacrosse team in the top of the league and in position for a conference championship run. The team will field a talented line of attackmen. Seniors Thomas Bosque, Mike MacKenzie, and Scott Whelchel should produce high scoring games. Vet-

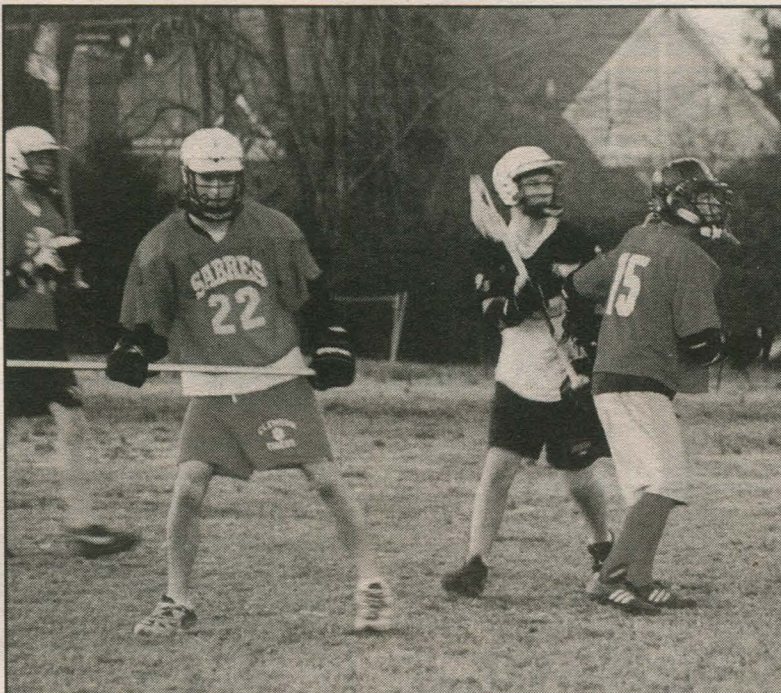
eran midfielders Justin Hsu, Matt Stahl, and Tommy G, in combination with several other seniors, offer the depth and experience missing for last season's team. Look for big hits from the veteran defense of Neil Smith, Brian Shiels, and Joon Lee.

This season the lacrosse team will be naming a "Fan of the Game" for each of the team's home games. This award will go to the fan displaying the most spirit and making the most noise. The recipient of this award will receive a special prize and recognition. The team is also looking for students to take score and keep time at the games.

The lacrosse teams need students support. They are not an official team so they are unable to receive school funding. They are required to raise all of the money needed to run the team. Watch for fundraisers to help support a unique group of South Meck students.

KEY GAMES

Myers Park	April 5
Catholic	April 10
Providence	April 12
North Meck	April 28



Julia Flumian/Staff Photographer

South Meck Baseball 2000 Schedule

3/24	Butler (away)
3/28	Myers Park (away)
3/31	Garinger (away)
4/4	West Charlotte (home)
4/7	Providence (away)
4/10	Forest Hills (away)
4/11	Independence (home)
4/13	East Meck (away)
4/18	Tournament (away)
4/25	Butler (home)
4/27	Myers Park (home)
5/1	Conference (away)

South Meck Women's Soccer Schedule

3/30	Butler (away)
3/31	Myers Park (away)
4/6	Garinger (away)
4/11	West Charlotte (home)
4/13	Providence (away)
4/17	Olympic (home)
4/25	Independence (home)
4/27	East Meck (home)
5/2	Butler (home)

LADY SABRE SOCCER OFF TO A GREAT START

Laura King
STAFF ARTIST

The varsity women's soccer team kicked off the spring 2000 season at home against Vance High School on February 28. Despite losing seven seniors to graduation last year, the squad hopes to turn this into their advantage by becoming a more balanced, well-rounded team. Coach Lynch hopes that "the team will play as a unit and continue to show improvement in every match during the season."

The Sabres have a strong track record to uphold, boasting an outstanding '99 record of 11 wins and three losses in the conference and 16 wins, five losses and one tie overall. The team identifies their major goals this year as being able to compete for the conference championship and qualify for the state playoffs. The toughest hurdles the Sabres will face are arch rivals Myers Park and Providence, teams that both return most of their rosters from the '99 season. South is well led by 3 accredited coaches. New assistants Ian Jones and Steven Curlee bring more experience and knowledge to the coaching staff; Ian played at Queens College and coached at the prestigious Stratford Academy in Georgia, while Steven played at

UNLV and coached high school and club soccer in Las Vegas.

The varsity team fields 17 players this year; the roster consists of six seniors, three juniors, two sophomores, and

average. Laura King has excellent speed and a tremendous work rate in the midfield and was the team co-assist leader with 11 in addition to three goals in 1999. Alicia Chermansky is known for be-



Julia Flumian/ Staff Photographer

six freshmen. Eight Sabres are veterans of the team. Allison Maul is a four-year starter who had 15 goals in 1999. Tiffany Corbell is an experienced and versatile defender. Emma Juncadella has the potential to be the best goalkeeper in the conference, and boasted an impressive 13 shutouts last year along with a .68 goals against

ing a strong, experienced and tenacious defender. Mary Tricebock is a returning starter with very good skills and tactical awareness. Gabby Schwarze was a consistent performer last year, and Hannah Lippard, a great defender, was outstanding on the junior varsity team. Terri Fisher is reliable at nearly every position on

the field. There is a tremendous amount of talent among the new players as well. Elizabeth Nance is a solid all-state sweeper for her select team, and Mary Jo Yee, Laura Duke, Lisa Collins, Blair Henderson and Anne Foushee all excelled on their middle school and club teams. Taneh Worjolah was an all-conference player in Delaware, and Missy Bell brings additional strength in the goal, a luxury the Sabres are always glad to have. Overall, the coaching staff feels that as soon as this young team gets to know each other, they will be able to maintain their prestigious status in the Southwestern 4A Conference.

Coach Lynch feels that even though he will lose another six seniors to graduation this spring, there is the realistic possibility of long term success after this year. In addition to the young talent on the varsity squad, he is "excited about the potential on the JV team. With hard work and experience many of these girls can become great varsity players in the future." There are eight freshmen, five sophomores, and three juniors on the junior varsity roster.

Look for the Sabres to have another successful season in 2000. They got off to a fast start, defeating their first four opponents without allowing any goals. For those teams who believed this year would be merely a rebuilding year in South Meck's soccer history, they will be surprised.

I Miss Baseball

I can't wait for baseball to start. I want to sit on my couch on Saturday afternoons, turn on the TV, be lazy, and just watch baseball. It is the most peaceful thing to just be able to watch a baseball game in action while being entertained at the same time. It is understandable that a majority of people find baseball boring, but I can't see why. Baseball requires a lot of strategy and thinking, contrary to what people think (that it requires nothing but possessing the talent of hitting a moving ball). See, baseball is a real game and sport, one that requires use of the whole body, for athletic and mental purposes.

This year in baseball, I'd like to see some things happen. Of course, I'd like to see the Yankees win the World Series again, but I want them to win it in this manner: in a Subway Series (for all you non-baseball fans out there, that would be the New York Yankees versus the New York Mets). That would be nice, to see an all New York World Series. Also, I don't want to see any more home run chases. I think it is an aberration to the game of baseball, with all these home runs being hit and what

**Joan
LEE**

Sports Commentary

not. So what if it interests the minds of fickle fans? I'd much rather see a great pitcher's duel than see Mark McGwire hit five home runs in a game. What a joke, batters grooming themselves to be home run hitters so they can enjoy their 15 minutes of fame. I'd also like to see some of the low budget teams make some noise in the standings. I hope they can see the route that the Cincinnati Reds and Oakland A's have taken and follow in the same path. Then again, maybe not. Not every team has the luxury of being labeled as "the team that Ken Griffey Jr. wants to play for." Finally, I'd like to see the ever rising ERA (earned run average) actually decreased a little for a change. I want to see good pitching for a change, meaning, a 4.50 ERA is not acceptable. I don't care if you're 25-0. If your ERA was 4.50 while winning 25 games, well then, you are not a good pitcher - you're merely a decent pitcher with great run support.

Yeah, like I've been saying, I long for baseball to finally come back around. It just feels good to hear the ball popping in the catcher's mitt or watching Rey Ordonez and Edgardo Alfonzo turning picture perfect double plays. What can I say? I'm a baseball junkie - maybe even a purist. What can beat seventh inning stretches with "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" and taking in a game from the bleachers at Wrigley Field? Nothing. That's right, nothing. So let's play ball!

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